

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 32

By Haile

A RESOLUTION to recognize the musical career of Jimmy Capps.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body are pleased to recognize citizens of this State who are renowned in their fields of endeavor, especially when those chosen fields are in keeping with Tennessee's pride and heritage in country music; and

WHEREAS, one such renowned musician of the country music genre is guitarist Jimmy Capps, a native North Carolinian who has for many years lived in Hendersonville, Tennessee, and has recorded a fifty-six-year history of playing music on the hallowed stage of the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Capps was born on May 25, 1939, in Fayetteville, North Carolina, the son of Tommy and Alice Capps. Raised in Benson, North Carolina, his earliest musical inspirations were his champion fiddle-playing uncle, Lynn Cook, and local guitarist Hayden Ivey, along with country music greats Grady Martin, Chet Atkins, Leon Rhodes, and Spider Wilson; and

WHEREAS, as early as twelve years of age, Jimmy Capps began playing music and performing in person and on local radio stations around both Carolinas. At age nineteen, his professional life moved into orbit when he became the guitarist for The Louvin Brothers, one of country music's all-time great duos, and he made his Opry debut in 1958 playing with them; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, Mr. Capps became a member of the Grand Ole Opry Staff Band, and he was honored as a member when that group was nominated by the Country Music Association for instrumental group of the year in 1982; and

WHEREAS, as one of country music's finest guitar players, Jimmy Capps is a true master of smoothness, and he has an amazing ability to move flawlessly from electric to

acoustic instruments with a polished and refined touch that he brings to every recording performance of which he is a part; and

WHEREAS, opportunities to work with legendary producers such as Owen Bradley, Billy Sherrill, and Larry Butler are considered by Mr. Capps to be some of the finest moments in his professional career; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Capps has learned from these master producers the art of song production. He has produced albums for artists such as The Wilburn Brothers, Jan Howard, Jim & Jesse, and Roy Drusky; and

WHEREAS, he has received numerous awards from the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences. In 1978 and 1979, he was recognized as a member of that organization's Superpickers Band, and he was voted Most Valuable Acoustic Player in 1978; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Capps has been recognized for his musical excellence in his home state on multiple occasions: an executive proclamation was presented to him in 1998; his hometown of Benson regaled him with "Jimmy Capps Day" in 2009; and in 2014, he was inducted into both the Musicians Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville and the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Capps is an absolute marvel in country music, his artistic skills are matchless, and the blessings he has received throughout his professional endeavors in music are boundless; and

WHEREAS, he is deeply appreciative of the love and support he has long enjoyed with his wife, country singer Michele Voan Capps, and he is exceedingly proud of his sons, Jeff and Mark, and his grandchild, Summer Capps; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy and Michele Capps are regular members of one of RFD-TV's most popular shows, *Larry's Country Diner*; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Capps is an outstanding citizen of Tennessee and is surely among those considered to be the greatest musicians of all time; his contributions to the genre have been defining and monumental; and his love of his profession is tried and true; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and applaud the illustrious career of Jimmy Capps as a highly acclaimed guitarist and as having played on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry for fifty-six years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.